

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 NIC-01 SAM-01

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R 280945Z MAY 74

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1854

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 884

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CH

SUBJECT: GOVERNORS' MEETING WITH SHANGHAI REVOLUTIONARY
COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN FENG KUO-CHU

REF: PEKING 881

1) BEGIN SUMMARY: ON MAY 23 GOVERNS HAD PRE-BANQUET MEETING
WITH SHANGHAI REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE VICE CHAIRMAN
FENG KUO-CHU. MEETING LASTED OVER AN HOUR, WELL PAST THE
SCHEDULED TIME FOR THE BANQUET, AND CONSISTED LARGELY OF
A MONOLOGUE BY FENG ON THE INIQUITIES OF IMPERIALISM AND
ANTONIONI, THE ANTI-LIN-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN, AND THE PROBLEMS OF
RUNNING THE WORLD'S LARGEST CITY. END SUMMARY.

2. IN RESPONSE TO DELEGATION CHIEF GOVERNOR EVAN'S
OPENING QUESTION ABOUT THE MOST URGENT PROBLEMS CONFRONTING
SHANGHAI, FENG WENT DIRECTLY INTO OBVIOUSLY WELL PLANNED
HOUR-LONG MONOLOGUE. HE DESCRIBED SHANGHAI AS A SOCIALIST,
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MULTI-CATEGORY INDUSTRIAL BASE. (HE LATER SAID SHANGHAI WAS

CHINA'S EASTER GATEWAY AND AN IMPORTANT MILITARY CENTER.) HE SAID THAT PRE-LIBERATION SHANGHAI WAS PREVENTED FROM DEVELOPING HEAVY INDUSTRY BY IMPERIALIST EXPLOITERS AND COULD ONLY ENGAGE IN REPAIR WORK AND LIGHT INDUSTRY DEPENDING ON FOREIGN CAPITAL. HE CITED GAINS MADE IN SHANGHAI SINCE LIBERATION, BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT PROBLEMS STILL EXIST. HE URGED THE GROUP TO SEE NOT ONLY SHANGHAI'S PROBLEMS BUT ITS PROGRESS AND NOTED THAT HE WAS SAYING THIS DELIBERATELY BECAUSE "THERE IS A MAN CALLED ANTONIONI". FENG SAID CHINESE DID NOT EXPECT ANTONIONI TO SEE ONLY THAT WHICH WAS GOOD, BUT CLAIMED HE CONCENTRATED ON EVERYTHING THAT WAS BAD. ANTONIONI, HE SAID, HAD SHOT OVER 70,000 FEET OF FILM AND USED 2,400 FEET CONCENTRATING ON ALL THE BAD THINGS IN SHANGHAI. HE CHARGED THAT ANTONIONI "STOOD FACTS ON THEIR HEAD" WHEN HE CLAIMED SHANGHAI BUILT UP ON FOREIGN CAPITAL. FENG CAUSTICALLY POINTED TO SASSOON WHOM HE CHARACTERIZED AS A "FORMER HOOLIGAN WHO CAME TO SHANGHAI WITH ONLY ONE SUITCASE". HE SAID SASSOON USED OPIUM TO ACQUIRE LAND AND WEALTH IN SHANGHAI DRAINING THE CHINESE PEOPLE AND RELYING ON "BACKSTAGE BOSSES".

3) FENG SAID SHANGHAI'S MOST URGENT PROBLEM WAS TO CONTINUE THE REVOLUTION AND PROMOTE PRODUCTION. NOTING THAT THE THREAT OF "AGGRESSION FROM THE NORTH" STILL EXISTS, HE SAID IF SOVIETS FEEL DIRECT AGGRESSION UNWISE THEY WILL USE INTERNAL SUBVERSION. LIN PIAO WAS CITED AS EXAMPLE OF REACTIONARY SOVIET LACKEY WHO ATTEMPTED TO ASSASSINATE MAO AND USURP POLITICAL POWER. NOTING THAT TRANSFORMATION OF OLD THOUGHTS AND IDEOLOGIES TAKES A LONG TIME, FENG SAID ALTHOUGH CHINA'S ECONOMIC BASE IS SOCIALIST, FEUDALISM STILL EXISTS IN THE SUPERSTRUCTURE. COMMENTING THAT MANY FOREIGN FRIENDS DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE ANTI-LIN, ANTI-CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN, HE SAID THAT LINGERING PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE OF LIN PIAO HAD MADE THE CAMPAIGN NECESSARY.

4) TURNING TO SHANGHAI'S PROGRESS AND PROBLEMS FENG NOTED THAT TOTAL VALUE OF SHANGHAI'S PRODUCTION HAD INCREASED SIXTEEN TIMES OVER THAT BEFORE LIBERATION AND THAT SHANGHAI'S STEEL MILLS NOW PRODUCED IN HALF A DAY WHAT WAS PRODUCED IN ONE YEAR. HE SAID SHANGHAI IS TOO BIG, AND WHILE POPULATION CONTROL CAN REDUCE GROWTH, IT CANNOT REDUCE POPULATION ITSELF. BIRTHRATE
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HAS BEEN REDUCED TO SEVEN PER THOUSAND, HE CLAIMED, AND MANY YOUTHS BEING SENT TO THE COUNTRYSIDE. AVERAGE WAGE IS SEVENTY YUAN PER MONTH, AND, IN GENERAL, TWO TO THREE MEMBERS OF EACH FAMILY WORK.

5) COMMENT: FENG IMPRESSED USLO ESCORT AS A TOUGH AND PROBABLY ABLE POLITICIAN. LIKE OTHERS OF HIS SHANGHAI COLLEAGUES WHOM WE HAVE MET, HE IS YOUNG, PROBABLY EARLY

FIFTIES, SARTORIALLY WELL TURNED OUT AND CONFIDENT OF HIS
AND SHANGHAI'S IMPORTANCE. HE WAS EXPANSIVE AT DINNER, SOMETIMES
BORDERING ON CONDESCENSION, BUT HIS TABLE MANNERS AND STYLE
OF SPEAKING SUGGESTED HE MAY NOT BE AS SOPHISTICATED AS SOME
OF THE OTHER SHANGHAI LEADERS.
BRUCE

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